

Letters of Support

56 letters were written in support of the City of Durham's BUILD application for the Durham Belt Line. This file contains letters from the following Institutions and Organizations:

- Bike Durham
- Carolina Godiva Track Club
- Duke Park Neighborhood
- Duke University Landscape Architect
- Duke University Hospital Trauma Center
- Durham Bike Co-op
- Durham Central Park
- Durham Community Trail Watch
- Durham Parks Foundation
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
- Museum of Durham History
- North Carolina Central University
- Parkrun
- Partnership for a Healthy Durham
- Sierra Club, Headwaters Group
- The Conservation Fund
- Trees Durham
- Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy
- Triangle Trails
- Trinity Park Neighborhood



May 11, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Bike Durham is a local sustainable transportation advocacy organization in Durham. We believe everyone should have access to safe, affordable, and sustainable transportation regardless of race, wealth, gender identity, ability, or where they live. Biking and walking are the most healthy and sustainable ways to move. Bike Durham empowers people of all ages to walk, bike, and ride transit more often by promoting policy, infrastructure, education, and community events.

Bike Durham is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail. The Durham Belt Line is a 1.7-mile railroad corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail is an integral part of the Low-Stress Network that Bike Durham has begun advocating to be built out in Durham. As a vital link in this network, the trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

We are encouraged by the City's efforts to ensure that the benefits and impacts of the Durham Belt Line Trail will be equitable and will enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail. We expect that the trail will be a catalyst for economic development at key locations along its route. We also expect that the creation of this new transportation corridor that also will serve as a park and open space will improve health and quality of life for residents throughout Durham, and has the promise of restoring the environment, and showcasing the art, culture, and history of our special home: Durham.

Bike Durham strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Tallmadge
Executive Director



7 May 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

My name is Ariana Bevilacqua, and I'm writing this letter on behalf of a local running organization in the Durham-Chapel Hill area of North Carolina, Carolina Godiva Track Club. Our non-profit organization has been operating in this area since 1975 and has a long-standing history of supporting local parks, trails, and greenways through donations, volunteering, and events. Our own events center around supporting these local resources that we hold near and dear (e.g., Umstead State Park; Duke Forest; the Ellerbe Creek Trail), and we lend our support and sponsorship to other events with similar aims. Our over 300 club members frequently use local trail networks for recreation as well as transit, rely heavily on these safe and accessible public resources, and support their continued creation and maintenance.

Carolina Godiva Track Club is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

Carolina Godiva Track Club strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ariana Bevilacqua
President
Carolina Godiva Track Club

president@carolinagodiva.org

Duke Park Neighborhood Association
Durham, NC

May 1, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Duke Park Neighborhood Association Board is enthusiastic to offer a letter of support for the City of Durham's BUILD Discretionary Grant application. Our neighborhood is pleased that the City of Durham is pursuing this funding opportunity in order to continue construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

For reference, the Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

Duke Park is a neighborhood whose edge lies along the Northern section of the anticipated Belt Line Trail, and we greatly support the construction of the Belt Line Trail; not only as a recreational trail that community members can use to bike, run, or walk, but primarily as a transportation corridor for pedestrians and cyclists. Once complete, the Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station. Having the Durham Belt Line Trail available for pedestrians and cyclists will offer a safer dedicated commuting space for these particular modes of transportation, and will help keep Durham's residents safe as they utilize the trail.

The Duke Park Neighborhood Association strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham for this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Duke Park Neighborhood Association Board
BOARD@dukepark.groups.io
Durham, NC 27701



Mark Hough, FASLA
University Landscape Architect
Duke University

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I have lived in Durham, N. C. for over 30 years and have been the University Landscape Architect at Duke University for the past 20 years. In my time here, I have worked closely with the City of Durham as both a represent of the University and an involved citizen to make Durham as vibrant, safe, and livable as possible. I have collaborated with City staff for many years to improve the public realm, where my expertise and interest lies.

Duke University makes very clear that it directly benefits from Durham's success and has invested a great deal to assist the City in its efforts. I am writing in my capacity as a Duke administrator to support the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant for the Durham Belt Line Trail project. Durham's application would provide funds for design and construction of the trail on a 1.7 mile contiguous rail corridor that is no longer in use. Projects such as this have proven successful in other cities, and would be a tremendous boon for Durham's economy and quality of life.

Durham has been growing rapidly, and this Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor. The project will also enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and help to ensure equity through multiple strategies identified in the draft master plan. Importantly, it will also help improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restore a healthy environment, and highlight art, culture, and local history.

I believe this project is an excellent candidate for the BUILD Discretionary Grant program and supports the US Department of Transportation's overall goal of increasing economic activity and supporting more livable communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "m. Hough", written in a cursive style.

Mark Hough,
University Landscape Architect

May 6, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I work as the Injury Prevention Coordinator with the Duke Trauma Center at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. The City of Durham has been a partner of the Duke Trauma Center for the past three years as they have embarked upon implementing Vision Zero Durham, an initiative to eliminate roadway deaths and injuries in our city. Through this Vision Zero partnership and by being part of the Durham Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission, I have gained valuable insight into the great work of the City of Durham related to transportation, access, and injury prevention.

I am writing in support the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

Duke Trauma Center and I support and recommend that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute my support, and that of my organization, to this very worthy and needed project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tricia Smar, MSW, CHES
Injury Prevention Coordinator
Trauma Services
Duke University Hospital

May 2, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590



Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing on behalf of the Durham Bicycle Cooperative in support of the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Bicycle Cooperative is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit located less than a mile from the Durham Beltline trail corridor. We believe bicycles have the power to make our local communities a better place through sound environmental practices, a commitment to sustainable economics and social equality, involvement and outreach with our local community, and promoting cycling as a healthy fitness and wellness activity.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will increase opportunities for biking and walking in Durham, and provide increased access between the Bike Co-op and other areas of the city. The project will enhance overall mobility, livability, and environmental sustainability in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

The Durham Bicycle Cooperative strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Walpole, Board Member, Durham Bicycle Cooperative



April 24, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

My organization, Durham Central Park, Inc., is a 501c3 nonprofit that manages, develops and programs Durham Central Park which is a 5 acre park in the heart of downtown Durham. The park hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and is adjacent to the Durham Beltline Trail.

Durham Central Park, Inc. is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

Durham Central Park, Inc. strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin G. Kaufman

Executive Director, Durham Central Park, Inc.



May 4, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Durham Community Trail Watch (DCTW) group is a group of volunteers that monitor the hike and bike trails in Durham. The group promotes safe, clean, and enjoyable trails through trail clean-up days, informational Education Stations, reporting downed trees and other maintenance issues to the proper departments during patrols of the trails and the monthly Full Moon Fever Bike Ride. DCTW is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.7-mile rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant. The Durham Belt Line Trail is included in the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the DCHC MPO region.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people from the northern section of Durham to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), the Durham Amtrak Station and connecting several existing sections of trail to each other.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

The Durham Community Trail Watch (DCTW) group enthusiastically supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jen McDuffie
Debra West
Alan Dippy
DCTW Volunteers



DURHAM PARKS FOUNDATION

400 Cleveland Street

Durham, NC 27701

919-560-4355

www.durhamparksfoundation.org

May 7, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Durham Parks Foundation mission is to preserve, strengthen and expand parks, trails, open space and recreation opportunities in Durham through diverse community involvement, fundraising, partnerships and education. We have been supportive of efforts to develop the Durham Belt Line Trail since our founding in 2015

Durham Parks Foundation is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

Durham Parks Foundation strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Taylor

Susan Taylor
President, Board of Trustees

To preserve, strengthen and enhance parks, trails, open space and recreational opportunities in Durham through diverse community involvement, fundraising, partnerships and education.



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Executive Director

Dennis Markatos-Soriano

May 4, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The East Coast Greenway Alliance is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The East Coast Greenway Alliance is a non-profit spearheading the development of a safe and accessible 3,000-mile greenway from Maine to Florida. One third of our route is currently on greenways, with over 50% in construction, funded, or in active planning. Walkers, runners, bicyclists, and other users make over 30 million visits to the East Coast Greenway each year. Our headquarters is located in Durham, and the Durham Belt Line Trail would be an important component of the East Coast Greenway.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station. As previously mentioned, the Belt Line Trail would also be a segment of the East Coast Greenway.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

We look forward to the opportunity to contribute the support of the East Coast Greenway Alliance to this very worthy and necessary project. We strongly





recommend that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis Markatos-Soriano
Executive Director
East Coast Greenway Alliance

Sarah Sanford
VA & NC Coordinator
East Coast Greenway Alliance

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Karen Votava, RI
Judy Walton, OR
Eric Weis, RI
Kenneth Withrow, NC

Executive Director

Dennis Markatos-Soriano



MUSEUM of DURHAM HISTORY

PO Box 362 | Durham, NC 27702 | www.modh.org

May 15, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Museum of Durham History is a 21st-century museum that uses stories about people, places and things to foster curiosity, encourage further inquiry, and promote an understanding of diverse perspectives about the Durham community and its history. The museum is putting its mission into action through a personal approach to history that sets this museum apart: an innovative, community model that engages with history through stories—the personal memories, experiences and family lore of our shared heritage.

The Museum of Durham History is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail. The trail head of the Belt Line lies adjacent to the Museum, so we see are excited to see this project take shape.

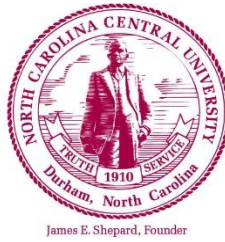
The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Museum of Durham History is currently in the visioning stage of expanding its current site to house a larger, permanent history museum. This future facility and Durham Belt Line Trail will complement each other, and the Museum design will dovetail with the plans of the trail. The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history. The Museum of Durham History strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Mucklow | Executive Director



Office of the Chancellor

May 8, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

North Carolina Central University is a master's level comprehensive institution in Durham, N.C. Located in state's Research Triangle, NCCU has an enrollment of 8,000 students in undergraduate, graduate and professional. The university is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina System and offers bachelor's degrees in 100 disciplines, master's degrees in more than 40 areas, and a Ph.D. in Integrated Biosciences.

North Carolina Central University is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

North Carolina Central University strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Heiko Rath
4912 Harwood Ct
Durham, NC 27713

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Durham, NC 4/28/2020

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to you on behalf of parkrun Durham, NC which is part of the global parkrun community (<https://www.parkrun.us>). We organize weekly, free, timed 5km walking/running events and believe in strengthening our community through positive, welcoming and inclusive experiences.

Parkrun Durham, NC is offering this letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

Parkrun Durham, NC strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heiko Rath
Co-Run Director parkrun Durham, NC



May 5, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham is a coalition of local organizations and community members with the goal of collaboratively improving the health and well-being of its community, and those who live in it, using racial equity principles.

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to proceed with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will improve the overall health of our community as well as mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle Region (Durham, Raleigh, Chapel Hill) by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station. It will connect to North Durham via the South Ellerbee Creek Trail and to South Durham through the American Tobacco Trail.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angel Romero, Co-Chair, Partnership for a Healthy Durham



April 27, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Headwaters Group (representing Durham, Granville, Person and Vance counties) is one of 12 local groups of the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, which advocates across the state for a clean, healthy North Carolina and for outdoor recreational opportunities for all its residents.

The Headwaters Group of the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will contribute to altering the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will contribute to improved health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture and history.

The Headwaters Group sees great value in the Durham Belt Line Trail and supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Headwaters Group of the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club

THE
CONSERVATION FUND

1655 N. Ft. Myer Dr., Suite 1300. Arlington, VA 22209

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of The Conservation Fund, we support the City of Durham's FY2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application, and its efforts to advance the Durham Belt Line Trail. At The Conservation Fund, we make conservation work for America. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, we are redefining conservation to demonstrate its essential role in our future prosperity. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we have worked in all 50 states since 1985 to protect more 8 million acres of land.

It is my understanding the City of Durham is seeking BUILD grant funds to construct the Durham Belt Line Trail, a 1.75-mile contiguous rail corridor that is no longer in operation. If awarded, the grant funds would build upon an FY2018 TIGER grant that funded a master plan, which provided a bold and visionary approach on how the Durham Belt Line Trail can turn into a vibrant outdoors recreational space for city residents and visitors alike.

The Durham Belt Line will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in the City of Durham and regionally. The trail will also connect people to public transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving active transportation options such as bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line will have an enormous impact on the reduction of regional sprawl, attract new economic opportunities to the corridor, and enhance existing communities along the trail. Additionally, the transportation effort will work to ensure equity through the City of Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement, improve the health and quality of life by expanding access to parks and open space, restore critical environmental ecosystems, and showcase local art, history, and culture.

The Conservation Fund strongly believes the City of Durham's application to implement the Durham Belt Line Trail is an excellent candidate for the FY2020 BUILD grant program. We also support the U.S. Department of Transportation's overall goal of funding projects that have a significant local or regional impact. Should you have any questions, please contact The Conservation Fund's Senior Government Relations Representative, Mark Cason at 703-908-5803 or mcason@conservationfund.org; or Urban Program Director, David Proper at 919-215-5337 or dproper@conservationfund.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lawrence A. Selzer
President and CEO



April 27, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am the Executive Director of TreesDurham, and we are delighted to write this letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

First, about us. TreesDurham is a local non-profit dedicated to creating a healthy, sustainable and socially just tree canopy while retaining a 50% canopy cover across Durham. We do this through education, advocacy and tree planting. Since our start, we have planted hundreds of trees at schools and community centers, held an annual conference and taught multiple classes about trees and tree care. We believe everyone deserves access to trees and the benefits they bring. This is why we wholly support the creation of the Durham Belt Line, which will provide access to trees for Durham residents to travel through and enjoy.

The Durham Belt Line is a 1.75-mile, 17-acre rail corridor that is no longer in use and was purchased by the City of Durham in 2018. The Durham City Council in 2018 adopted a master plan for the trail that was funded by a TIGER planning grant. The Durham Belt Line Trail will enhance overall mobility, livability, environmental sustainability, and economic competitiveness in Durham and regionally. The trail will connect people to transit and jobs throughout the Triangle by improving bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown Durham, the Durham Station (local and regional bus service), and the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

TreesDurham strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Rose Levin
Executive Director- TreesDurham



May 7, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy (TRTC) is a volunteer-based group founded in 1990 to promote the development of former rail corridors as trails for recreational and transportation use in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. Our Conservancy is located in Durham and over the years our primary focus has been on advocacy at the State and County level in support of building and improving the 22+ Mile American Tobacco Trail.

The TRTC is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

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The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to alter the pattern of regional sprawl by attracting some of the region's future growth to the corridor, while seeking to enhance and preserve existing

communities along the trail, and working to ensure equity through Durham's Blueprint for Equitable Community Engagement. The trail will improve health and quality of life by increasing access to parks and open space, restoring the environment, and showcasing art, culture, and history.

The Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy strongly supports and recommends that a 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Curtiss Devereux

President

Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy



Plan. Build. Promote. Use.

May 6, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

TriangleTrails is a collaboration between government, business, anchor institutions and civic leaders to make the Research Triangle Region a leader in greenways and trails. TriangleTrails works on behalf of the collective interests of member counties, municipal governments, businesses, non-profits and citizens to promote the regional greenway system.

TriangleTrails is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

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TriangleTrails strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sig Hutchinson, Chair
Triangle Trails Advisory Board



May 8, 2020

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Through:
Dale McKeel, **AICP**
Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Via email: Dale.McKeel@DurhamNC.gov

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Trinity Park neighborhood is located between downtown and Duke University's East Campus. Within 40 square blocks of tree-lined streets, the neighborhood is filled with historic homes and buildings, earning Trinity Park a place on the National Register of Historic Districts. Trinity Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA) is one of the oldest and most active neighborhood associations in Durham. TPNA has been integral in building community, preserving historic architecture, working with the city on smart development, and keeping the neighborhood safe and enjoyable for all neighbors. We are a neighborhood of more than 1000 families that live generally along the western leg of the proposed Duke Belt Line Trail.

The Trinity Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA) is pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Durham's application for a BUILD Discretionary Grant that would provide funds to move forward with the construction of the Durham Belt Line Trail.

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The Trinity Park Neighborhood Association strongly supports and recommends that the 2020 BUILD Grant be awarded to the City of Durham for this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana Amato, President
Trinity Park Neighborhood Association